

Recommendations and Problems

Monthly Reports for January 1959

CARTOGRAPHY DIVISION

USSR Satellites BRANCH

25X1X7N1
[REDACTED] Although the Branch was able to complete its commitment ahead of schedule, there will be some difficulty in working ahead to the degree originally planned. The difficulty is that the old [REDACTED] 25X1X4 [REDACTED] is usually in use in St/I. This results in extended negotiations in timing the borrowing of each of the briefs for our use.

PIC Cartographic Support: The Chief has made four visits to PIC to help coordinate their requesting of cartographic support. Commendable effort is being made within PIC to coordinate their requests to D/GC, but there remains a broad area of "education" before this will be working smoothly. Because of the PIC isolation and the variety of components within the operation, there is little appreciation of either the possibilities or limitations of cartographic support. It is in this context that the Chief has agreed to make regular weekly visits to PIC, until the time when the support program will be operating smoothly.

Inquiries have been made by St/I for a map of the environs of Moscow. Such a map has been considered for some time as a glaring gap in base-map coverage within the USSR, and the Branch will welcome this request.

Another outstanding base-map gap lies in the area which is receiving emphasis in the current 7-year plan and will probably continue to receive emphasis in succeeding plans. This is the Urals-New Lands areas. The Branch intends to fill this gap as quickly as workload permits.

Continued concern is felt for the work overload in drafting, since the Branch has 16 maps there now. Concern is felt particularly for the self-initiated maps submitted for drafting. The Branch initiative exercised on these maps will have been wasted if priority work puts these maps off indefinitely.

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CARTOGRAPHY DIVISION (Cont'd)

FAR EAST COMPILATION BRANCH

OCI has not given D/GC guidance as to what it wants from this series of maps (OCI Handbook Maps) and hence some maps are being held up here until such guidance is forthcoming.

It is recommended that, as discussed with the Division Chief, NIS base maps both standard and page-size, be printed with a tan land tone and that this idea be made standard for all such maps by changing the standard specifications as they now exist.

It is recommended that a policy of spacing names of water areas, administrative units, countries, and extensive physiographic features be adopted and put into effect as a standard drafting procedure. The setting of such names solid and so placing them on the drafted plates produces an unpleasant effect on the final map. A reasonable amount of space between letters tends to define the unit and also reduces the impact of necessarily large type.

SPECIAL SUPPORT BRANCH

All the raw data for the special series of maps (to be printed at Admin Building) has come in; it is now a matter of coordinating and compiling all the material and, after it is finally approved, completing the drafting. We hope this will not be too many weeks away.

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GEOGRAPHY DIVISION

25X1A2d2

Work on Project [REDACTED] focussed attention on the problem that has arisen since the Central Branch of PIC moved out of Central Building. Obtaining and using GENETRIX photography, for example, was formerly a simple matter of making direct contact with Central Branch. Now, security restrictions surrounding PIC necessitate a slower, more cumbersome, and generally less satisfactory routine that involves going through Graphics Register in order to permit the rank-and-file analyst (i.e., one not cleared for the [REDACTED] to utilize this material. This is not to cast blame on Graphics Register. If an accessible Central Branch cannot be provided, it is recommended that consideration should be given to providing a room or special PIC clearance and would permit them to confer with PIC personnel and to examine and use photography which now is available to them only through Graphics Register.

25X1A9a

A book, ordered on loan on 29 October from the CIA Library, and which was changed to a RUSH inter-library loan on 6 November, was received on 12 January, from the Library of Congress. The poor nature of this service was called to the attention of [REDACTED] Reference Librarian, who was very glad to have the information as an example of miscarriage of service. New service procedures are being set up, and he wants to know about inadequacies.

FAR EAST/PACIFIC BRANCH

(First item above)

COORDINATION STAFF

Recent events have reemphasized the need for CIA representation on the NIS Committee.

EUROPE BRANCH

The suggestion emanating from a DD/P representative that personnel from D/GG be given briefings on the workings of DD/P warrants further consideration. It would not be necessary for our people to be assigned over there for 2 years as proposed, but a familiarization tour of the joint would help.

EDITING AND REVIEW STAFF

GG/R suggests that some method be devised for continuing the numbering sequence of the Geographic Intelligence Reviews.

GG/R would like to commend Reproduction on the speed with which GR 59-1 was issued. It was spent to Reproduction on 20 January and distributed on 29 January.

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GEOGRAPHY DIVISION

EDITING AND REVIEW STAFF (Cont'd)

The perennial problem that faces GG/R concerns the format and distribution of unclassified reports prepared by D/GG. Because no standards have been established by the Agency, each unclassified report requires a time-consuming investigation of procedures and involves a number of people outside the Division. In spite of all possible efforts, practically no unclassified reports escape legitimate criticism on some score. GG/R would like to call attention to CIA/RR 157, October 1958, which represents an effort to solve the format problem. This report has a separate cover that is approximately standard for CIA and a foreword. Both of these can be removed, leaving the report itself completely unclassified and uncontrolled. It is also completely unidentified. This would make it difficult, if not impossible, to cite as a source. Furthermore, anyone seeing the report without its cover would have no way of knowing whether or not it were authoritative without finding its source by word of mouth, which would defeat the original purpose.

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